

Nizam's money in London Bank

4451. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Deccan Chronicle dated 7th March, 2001 captioned "Nizam has \$20 Million in London Bank";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to bring back the money to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A sum of 1,007,940 Pounds Sterling and 9 Shillings approximately was maintained in an account in the National Westminster Bank of London in September 1948 in the name of Nizam of Hyderabad's Government. This amount was transferred into an account in the name of the then High Commissioner for Pakistan in London on the irregular instructions of the Nizam's Finance Minister. The funds currently amount to 24,454,350.18 Pounds Sterling approximately.

(c) Government have made several attempts in the past with the Government of Pakistan and the late erstwhile Nizam of Hyderabad and his legal heirs to resolve this issue. Government's efforts continue to address this matter.

Issues discussed with Russian President

4452. SHRI CM. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the visit of the Russian President to New Delhi, the question of lightening the burden of sanctions imposed against India in the aftermath of the Nuclear Test in May, 1998 was discussed;

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RAJYA SABHA

(b) whether the question of Soviet debt burden on India and its repayment was also discussed; and

(c) if so, the precise issues and the proposals discussed and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU) : (a) to (c) His Excellency Mr. Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation, paid a State Visit to India from October 2-5, 2000. During the visit, the entire gamut of Indo-Russian bilateral relations and regional and international issues of mutual interest and concern were discussed.

In the Joint Statement issued at the end of the visit on October 5, 2000, Russia welcomed India's voluntary moratorium on nuclear testing and appreciated the Indian Government's efforts to develop a broad national consensus on the issue of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. A Memorandum of Understanding in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy was signed during the visit, which emphasises continuity in cooperation in peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

During discussions with the President of the Russian Federation, the question of trade and economic cooperation through the rupee repayment track was discussed and further reviewed during the 7th session of the Indo Russian Inter Governmental Commission for Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural cooperation held in Moscow in January 2001.

Foreign tours of Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs

4453. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: SHRI
SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any foreign tours have been undertaken by him and the Prime Minister recently;

(b) whether any agreement to combat the terrorism or else has been made with USA and any other countries during these tours; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?